

D-8/65

Copy for D.C. (Special Branch)

8165

Stn. Ref. No. 314/37.

" B "

B'well

October 31st.

37.

2.

Casualties from shells exploding in the Western area.

At 10.10 a.m. 31/10/37 Inspector West telephoned to the Station to the effect that shells had fallen in Jessfield Park Camp and several of the Royal Ulster Rifles had been wounded.

D.I. Toon attended and it was ascertained that at about 9/55 a.m. 31/10/37 a shell had fallen on a hut of the British Military Barracks, Jessfield Park and the undermentioned members of the R.U. Rifles wounded.

L/c Dowe.
Rifle. McLecky.
" Saunderson.

All suffered wounds in the legs, but Rifle Saunderson's wounds were not of a serious nature.

During a visit re the above to the British Military Hospital, Bubbling Well Road, it was learnt that Rifle. Delaney who was admitted on 29/10/37 (see Diary 1) had died during the morning of 31/10/37 as a result of his injuries.

Copy to:- D.C. (Divs).
D.C. (Special Branch).

Adair

D. I.

Special Branch

Bubbling Well

November 1st 1937.

State of District.

D.I. Toon

Sir,

At 10.10 a.m. 31-10-37 Inspector West telephoned the station to the effect that shells were falling in Jessfield Park and that some of the R.Ulster Rifles had been wounded.

Enquiries ascertained that the undermentioned were wounded by a shell which struck a hut in Jessfield Park Camp.

L/C. Doney

Rifle Mc.Locky

Rifle Saundersen

For further particulars please see Sta. Ref. No.314/37.

Between 11.30 p.m. 31-10-37 and 5 a.m. 1-11-37 various patrols operated in Bubbling Well District enforcing "Curfew" 3 male foreigners and 35 male Chinese were arrested and detained until 5 a.m. 1-11-37.

S.I. Soloveiff and 3 Constables, S.M.P. (Specials) assisted in the curfew patrols.

West
2/11

Toon
D.I.

D.C. (Special Branch)

"B"

Stn. Ref. No. 314/37.

B'Well

Oct. 29th.

37

1.

Casualties from shells exploding in the Western Area.

During the shelling of Chinese positions in the Western area by Japanese forces at about 5 p.m. 29/10/37 the undermentioned persons were injured in the vicinity of Jessfield and Brennan Roads from shrapnel and were conveyed to various hospitals by S.F.B. Ambulance.

St. Luke's Hospital.

- (1) Sze Foo Chi. shrapnel wound on face.
- (2) Male Chinese. shrapnel wound on head. serious.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

- (3) Koo Koo Sz. wound of scalp.
- (4) Kyung Tsai Di. wound of shoulder.
- (5) Kyung Kau Di. wound of thigh.

Between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. 29/10/37 the under-mentioned persons were killed and wounded in Fah Wah Village, East of Rockhill Avenue and about 100 yards North of Avenue Haig when seven shells exploded in the vicinity and were removed to St. Elizabeth's Hospital by S.F.B. Ambulance.

- (6) Female Chinese (name unknown) killed.
- (7) Tsang Kyung Foh. fractured spine etc.
- (8) Tsang Zai Foh. Abrasion of nose.
- (9) Ts Kyung Mei. abrasion of scalp.

During the shelling between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. 29/10/37 the undermentioned persons were killed and injured on Yu Yuen Road opposite Jessfield Park when a shell exploded on the flower bed South of the Park, shrapnel entering No's 1473, 1475 & 1477, Yu Yuen Road.

Two further casualties were found under debris during the night.

Adm. 31.

AmB

S.I.

DBR

1 sheet 2.

- (10) 7011845 Rifle. O'Toole. R.U.Rifles. (Killed).
- (11) Wong Tuh. Wound of abdomen. (Killed).
- (12) Unknown. Wound of Abdomen. (Killed).
- (13) F.S.7 Cooper who was on motor cycle patrol was proceeding West to East on Yu Yuen Road when a shell exploded causing him to swerve and his machine came into contact with a severed ~~tan~~way overhead wire which threw him from his cycle causing him to sustain multiple bruises, he has been detained in the Country Hospital for observation.

The following members of "C" Company R.U.Rifles on duty at J.2. Post on Railway Road near Jessfield Rd were killed and wounded during the shelling between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. 29/10/37.

- (14) 7011701 Rifle. J. Mellon. (Killed).
- (15) 7011338 Rifle. W.C.Howard. (Killed).
- (16) 7011813 Rifle. R.Delaney. Wds of chest and leg.
- (17) 7011678 Rifle. J.McGuire. Multiple wounds.
- (18) 7011107 Rifle. P.Bowney. Shell Shock.

All the above were removed to the Military Hospital Bubbling Well Road.

It is also reported that a shell fell in the British Military Barracks at Jessfield Park, but so far as can be ascertained no damage was done and no one sustained injuries.

A shell penetrated the first floor on the North side of 415, Great Western Road, occupied by Mr. A.J.Rhodes and family, (British), no injuries to persons.

The summary of killed and wounded is as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| British soldiers killed..... | 3. |
| " " wounded..... | 3 (1 shellshock) |
| Chinese civilians killed..... | 3. |
| " " wounded..... | 2.(2) |
| Member of S.M.P. injured..... | 1. |
| TOTAL. | 18. |

Abbey
S.I.

British Authorities In Report On Affair Which Took Lives Of Riflemen

STATEMENT ISSUED CLAIMS JAPANESE ARMY WAS RESPONSIBLE; DENIAL PUTS BLAME ON CHINESE

FUNERAL OF THREE MEN WILL OCCUR AT BUBBLING WELL TO-MORROW

Many Residents Said Preparing To Leave Homes In Western District; Repercussions In Concession Are Said Very Slight

Having concluded an inquiry into the shelling of British posts and the area of the Western District near the perimeter on Friday night, the British authorities yesterday issued a statement to the effect that the unfortunate affair which resulted in the death of three soldiers and the wounding of two others was due to the action of the Japanese army.

The British authorities in Shanghai have also informed the Japanese that they are reporting to their Government the conclusion they have reached in the matter.

A formal statement dealing with the incident was issued here at a late hour yesterday afternoon through the British Consulate-General, this being presumably based on the findings of a military board of inquiry.

It was also stated that the Japanese Consul-General, Mr. Okamoto, accompanied by Admiral Honda, Naval Attache, Major-General Harada, Military Attache, and Mr. Okazaki, a Japanese Consul-General, called at the British Consulate-General yesterday and expressed their regrets to Admiral Sir Charles Little, Major-General A. P. D. Telfer-Smollett and Mr. Herbert Phillips, the Consul-General, for the occurrence.

The Japanese stated that a full report was being sent to their Government and that the investigation of the affair was still continuing.

Funeral To-morrow

In the meantime, it was announced that the funeral service for the late Rifleman Mellon, Rifleman Howard, and Rifleman O'Toole will take place at the Bubbling Well Cemetery at 3 o'clock to-morrow. An announcement released through the Royal ~~British~~ Rifles here yesterday afternoon stated that it was not desired that the funeral should be of an official nature.

The condition of Rifleman McGuire and Delaney, both of whom were wounded on Friday night, was characterized as still serious yesterday. Both of these men are at the British Military Hospital suffering from several wounds sustained during the Jessfield shelling.

Different Viewpoints

Speaking during the course of a regular press conference yesterday, a Japanese naval spokesman denied that the shells were of Japanese origin, adding that they must have

come from Chinese guns. It was claimed that the Japanese guns had not opened fire after sunset.

The Chinese answered these allegations during their press conference at a late hour yesterday afternoon. The Chinese spokesman stated, however, that he would rather leave the matter in the hands of the British authorities who were investigating.

Many Packing Up

Somewhat alarmed by their experiences on the previous evening, many residents of the Western District were busily preparing to evacuate their homes yesterday, this being especially true of those residing along Columbia Road.

The more brave merely packed up their more valuable belongings and arranged things so they could be taken to a place of safety at a moment's notice. Those who decided to get out completely, however, were confronted with the more serious problem of finding a place to live.

Local rental agents received many applications for spaces during the course of the morning, but few were able to offer accommodations due to the fact that available apartments had already been rented in most instances. The evacuation of Hongkew went a long way toward creating a serious housing problem in Shanghai, and the latest developments have helped to aggravate the situation.

It is interesting to note that, contrary to the movement evidenced here toward the beginning of the hostilities, many of those who have left the Western District are seeking temporary accommodation in the Central District.

Shorter Bus Line

In the light of current developments, it is impossible to say what areas in the Western District are actually dangerous, but, generally speaking, the section which is bounded on the east by Columbia and Edinburgh Roads is being evacuated by a considerable number of residents. This does not mean that all people are leaving their homes, for even out on Yu Yuen Road as far as Jessfield Park many houses and apartments are still occupied.

In view of the possible danger to passengers, the China General Omnibus Company has discontinued its service to Jessfield Park. At the present time the buses are running only to Edinburgh Road, where they turn around and go back again.

Hardly calculated to ease the minds of residents on Yu Yuen Road beyond Edinburgh Road is the fact that no little activity is being carried on in the strengthening of redoubts in this neighbourhood. There is already one sturdy concrete redoubt on Yu Yuen Road, the strength of which would seem to indicate that the defence forces are not doing things by halves.

More Posts Built

A visit to the Jessfield area and the nearby British posts along the perimeter during the course of the afternoon yesterday revealed the fact that all had been quiet there after the tragic occurrences of the night before. A number of the shops in the vicinity were tightly closed, and the usual Saturday afternoon crowd was not to be found in the park.

At the junction of Brenan and Keswick Roads the troops there were putting up new and stronger sandbag positions some distance from the first line, possibly with the idea that if a temporary withdrawal from the railway became necessary these could be utilized.

A close check-up made here yesterday revealed the fact that very few residents in the western part of the French Concession are contemplating leaving their homes. A few residing close to the terminus of Avenue Joffre moved out during the shelling on Friday night, but the majority of these have since returned.

It is understood that the French authorities lodged no protest with regard to the two stray shells which landed in the Concession but are co-operating with the British in an investigation of the matter.

Company's Fast Work

The most important damage done in the Concession was to a telephone line near the I.S.S. Apartments, this having been torn asunder when struck by a shell. The telephone company got to work immediately to effect the necessary repairs and by 1.30 o'clock yesterday afternoon the 100 subscribers who had been deprived of their service were able to call up all their friends and tell what narrow escapes they had had.

That the telephone company has had its troubles elsewhere is evidenced by the fact that the Hungjao exchange has been completely evacuated. People having homes in the Hungjao area are able to keep in touch with their caretakers or servants in spite of the change, for the Lucerne exchange in Edinburgh Road is now handling these calls.

27054

British Blame Nippon Shells In Death Of 3

An official statement, dispelling all doubt as to the Japanese origin of the shells which killed Rifleman Joseph O'Toole at the Honeyland Cafe on Yu Yuen Road, and caused the death of Rifleman James Mellon and Rifleman William Christopher Howard at Post J2 on Friday evening, was issued by H.M. British Consulate-General yesterday.

The statement announces that the British authorities here have informed the Japanese authorities that they consider the shelling of British posts and the area of the Western district near the perimeter which occurred on the evening of October 29, resulting in the death of three British soldiers and the wounding of two others, as due to the action of the Japanese Army. The British authorities, continued the statement, are reporting to the British Government in this sense.

It was further stated that the Japanese Consul-General, Mr. S. Okamoto, accompanied by Admiral Honda, Naval Attache, Major-General Harada, Military Attache, and Mr. Okazaki, a Japanese Consul-General, called at the British Consulate-General yesterday. Mr. Okamoto expressed his regrets to Admiral Sir Charles Little, Major-General A.P.D. Telfer-Smollett, and Mr. Herbert Phillips, Consul-General, over the occurrence. He said that a full report was being sent to the Japanese Government and that their investigation of the affair was still continuing.

The opinion of many military observers here, who are aware of the exact positions of the Japanese batteries, informed a representative of THE CHINA PRESS yesterday that if the shelling of the British perimeter was accidental, then a serious threat to the Settlement existed because of unbelievably poor marksmanship on the part of the Japanese. It was pointed out that if the Japanese were shelling Chin-

ese positions at the time, then their aim was no less, and possibly more, than 20 degrees off the mark.

Foreign military experts here said yesterday that if an unmolested artillery unit can possibly fire 20 degrees off its mark, then the men comprising the squad should be trusted with nothing more deadly than a pop-gun.

Chinese Fleet Nippon Report

The Japanese allegation that the shells were fired by the Chinese forces with a view to estranging the relations between foreign powers and Japan was "as ridiculous as it was blatant," declared a Chinese military spokesman last night.

A Chinese high commander told him, the spokesman continued, that these shells were not fired from Chinese guns and that he had every reason to believe that the British military authorities examining the matter would arrive at a fair and just conclusion as to their origin.

3 Ulster Riflemen Killed, 7 Wounded When Shell Explodes In Jessfield Sector Outpost

Missile Of Death Lands In Midst Of Group Drinking Tea

2 CHINESE DIE, 7 HURT ON AVE. HAIG

Shell On Jessfield Road Believed Of Japanese Origin

Three British soldiers were killed and three others were wounded, two seriously, when more than 15 shells believed to have been fired from Japanese artillery north of Soochow Creek, landed and exploded in the Jessfield Park area shortly before 8 o'clock last night.

The dead and wounded are all members of the Royal Ulster Rifles who are manning the boundary defenses of the western district of the International Settlement.

The dead are:

Rifleman James Mellon, age 24, of Londonderry, Ireland, multiple shrapnel wounds.

Rifleman William Christopher Howard, age 26, of Coonachram, Ireland, multiple shrapnel wounds.

Rifleman Patrick Joseph O'Toole, age 23, of Dublin, shrapnel wounds to the head.

The wounded are:

Rifleman Jack McGuire, of Strabane, Tyrone, Ireland, multiple shrapnel wounds.

Rifleman Robert Delaney, of Belfast, Ireland, serious wounds about the body.

Rifleman Campbell, also a native of Ireland, only slight wounds.

May Lose Leg

Riflemen McGuire and Delaney are now in the British Military Hospital. Their conditions are considered grave and operations were performed on both last night. Delaney may lose one leg and McGuire a foot.

Mellon and Howard were killed outright when a shell made a direct hit on the British dugout near the Jessfield Railway Bridge. The time was 7.35 p.m. The British outpost unit was at the time gathered around a small camp fire drinking "mugs" of tea and having a light meal.

A CHINA PRESS representative who visited the outpost late last night saw the blood-splattered helmets of the two dead Ulsters within about two feet of where the shell hit the sandbagged side of the outpost. Their white tea "mugs," also blood-smeared, were left on the spot where their owners had fallen but a few hours before.

Comrades of the wounded and killed Ulsters were visibly moved by the deaths within their ranks. Men at various posts asked eager questions of newspapermen who visited the area, saying that they had not been informed other than by rumor of what had actually occurred.

There were only seven men in the post at the time and but one, Rifleman Tomlanson, escaped unscratched. McGuire, Delaney and Campbell were all wounded at this point. Rifleman O'Toole was killed while he was seated in the Honeyland Cafe at 1475 Yu Yuen Road just across the street from the Jessfield Park entrance. Three shells landed in a grass street island between the park entrance and the cafe and all exploded with terrific detonations.

Died Almost Instantly

Shrapnel shattered the windows of the cafe, wounding O'Toole about the head. He died almost immediately. The time of this incident was 7.50 p.m. A Chinese waitress employed in the place, known as "Mabel" to the Tommies who patronize the establishment, was cut about the arm by flying glass. Two Chinese, a man and a woman, outside the cafe and believed to have been refugees, were both killed. Several other Chinese were reported to have been wounded but the exact number could not be determined. Several hundred refugees were on the road at the time.

A British police officer, riding a motorcycle along the street not far from the spot where the shells fell, had a narrow escape from electrocution.

Overhead trolley wires were blasted down as a result of the explosions and they fell on the officer's motorcycle. The resulting shock threw him from his seat. He stated last night that he was saved from death by the rubber grips on the handle-bars of his machine.

Riflemen Mellon and Howard were killed by the same shell which scored a direct hit on Post J2 behind the Jessfield Park Zoo at 7.50 p.m.

Due To Leave For Home

Rifleman Mellon was due to leave for England, with the party of nearly 300 men from the Ulster Rifles, whose term of service was to expire within six months.

Last night's three deaths brings the total of men of this regiment killed by Japanese fire to four within six days. Rifleman McGowan having been butchered by the machine-gun fire of a Japanese plane last Sunday on Keswick Road.

The shelling last night was an artillery duel between Chinese and Japanese positions. Just who started it is not known. At any rate, the Jessfield zone was showered with short range shells and for almost an hour the place was in a near panic. More than 200 Chinese refugees were in the zone and panic-stricken, and all scrambled for cover. The entrance to Jessfield Park was badly damaged while it was reported that several shells landed in the park itself.

After the death of the three soldiers, British military officials communicated with both Chinese and Japanese headquarters asking them to stop shelling. The two sides were informed that enough damage had been done for the evening. The shelling shortly afterwards stopped.

Returned, Repaired Post

Despite the fact that their dugout had been shattered, men of the Royal Ulster Rifles went back to the post, repaired it and were still there early this morning, manning the defense as usual.

While the British headquarters would make no statement as to the identity of the shells, private opinions expressed by foreign observers were to the effect that they were Japanese. The bursting shells threw the shrapnel to the south, indicating that they had come from the north.

Jessfield was not the only area in the western district which suffered as a result of shelling last night. One shell fell in a small Chinese settlement just off Avenue Haig and killed two Chinese, wounding seven others. Three other shells fell on an open lot off Route Camille Lorioz not far from Columbia Circle and although they all exploded, there were no casualties. Another shell is said to have fallen near the end of Avenue Joffre, causing no casualties.

SHANGHAI TIMES - 30.10.37.

Protest By General Telfer-Smollett

"The Shanghai Times" understands that representations were made last night by Major-General Telfer-Smollett to both Chinese and Japanese military authorities concerning the shelling of the British defence sector in the western extension area.

THREE ULSTER RIFLEMEN KILLED AT JESSFIELD

Shrapnel, Bullets And Shells Create Reign Of Terror Among Civilians

TWO "TOMMIES" SERIOUSLY WOUNDED
AS GUNFIRE FROM NORTH RAKES
BOUNDARY OF SETTLEMENT

MISSILES FALL ON STREETS AND HOUSES
ON EDGE OF WHOLE WEST EXTENSION

Special Precautions Taken By Police; Roads To
Danger Zone Closed; Many Residents Isolated
By Hit Near Pichon Telephone Exchange

Three men of the Royal Ulster Rifles were killed and two seriously wounded last night as a reign of terror descended on the western extension area of the Settlement to the accompaniment of the whine of shells, shrapnel and bullets which raked the edge of a district almost totally occupied by foreign residents.

Between 6 and 8.30 p.m., when the barrage from the north was at its height, a veritable hail of death poured from the skies, shells exploding in streets and on houses within the Settlement and Concession and along the defence front held by the British forces.

Forewarned by British Military and Consular authorities, civilian occupants of the area were nevertheless stricken by the swiftness with which the attack fell and took cover in whatever protection was offered by their homes. Immediately the barrage ceased, however, there was a gradual movement out of the district, most of the evacuees shifting out with only their immediate necessities.

So far as could be ascertained last night, no foreign civilian casualties had been sustained, but a number of foreign residences were struck by shells with varying damage.

Five Chinese were reported killed, including a woman and an infant and many more were injured, by shell, shrapnel and stray bullets that

rained all over the western area, right into the French Concession.

Three Killed

The following three men of the Royal Ulster Rifles, at present manning the western area perimeter, Sector D, were killed:

Rifleman Joseph O'Toole, 23, native of Dublin, killed in the Honeyland Cafe on Yu Yuen Road.

Rifleman James Mellon, 24, native of Londonderry, killed in Post J2.

Rifleman William Christopher Howard, 26, native of Dublin, killed in Post J2.

Two Wounded

The following two riflemen were seriously injured in addition to five others, who were slightly hurt:

Rifleman Jack McGuire, 25, native of Strabane, County Tyrone.

Rifleman Robert Delaney, 24, native of Belfast.

Indication that all kinds of missiles were likely to fall all over the

Western Area were seen early in the afternoon when trench mortars, light field pieces, machine-guns and rifles were brought into action by both sides. Shrapnel exploded in the air, not many yards over the railway line, while British troops took cover and the Chinese continued to dig trenches, using rails as uprights.

No Statement

No statement on the casualties was issued by the British Military authorities last night. It is understood, however, that an inquiry has been launched immediately under the direction of Major-General A. P. D. Telfer-Smollett, Commanding the British Forces in Shanghai, and as soon as it is ascertained by which of the two warring forces the shells were fired an official protest will be lodged.

It was intimated in foreign military circles last night that nothing, but unthinkably poor marksmanship could have caused the shells to have fallen within the British sector.

Rifleman O'Toole, was the first to be killed, when a shell landed in the Honeyland Cafe, opposite Jessfield Park, at about 6.45 p.m. At the time there was a group of refugees outside, three of them being killed and eight others wounded. Rifleman O'Toole was conveyed to the Country Hospital in a Shanghai Fire Brigade Emergency Ambulance, but was pronounced dead on arrival.

Riflemen Mellon and Howard were killed at Post J2, where Riflemen

Guire and DeLaney were injured. Three other men sustained slight injuries.

No Phone Service

Added to the discomfort of sleeping under a barrage of shells and rifle fire, numerous residents of the western district were further handicapped when their telephone service was disrupted. The Shanghai Telephone Company reported last night that several of their cables were broken down in the Route Pichon Exchange area. About a hundred lines, all numbering from 20,000 were affected, the service being disrupted at about 7 o'clock.

Numerous residents of Columbia Circle and the far end of Great Western Road had moved away from their homes before the deadly barrage descended on the city, while others collected only the most necessary belongings after the firing had quieted down a little and moved further into the Settlement for the night, where they may perhaps have to spend considerable time before being able once more to return to their former abodes. Residents along Yu Yuen Road, not far from Jessfield Park, also moved, as did a number residing in the western section of the French Concession. However, no general exodus of foreigners was witnessed last night.

Taking all precautionary measures Settlement Police last night stopped all traffic proceeding west of Jessfield Park along Yu Yuen Road. Prior to the evening no one was allowed west of Keswick Road.

Many Missiles

Apart from the shells that accounted for the casualties among the Royal Ulster Rifles, three other shells fell in the British sector about 150 yards west of Avenue Haig, near the end of Avenue Joffre. One of these exploded in a small Chinese settlement killing one woman and an infant and wounding seven others. At about the same time two other shells exploded on a vacant plot of ground off Rue Camille Lorioz but no one was injured here. One shell fell 150 yards west of Route Ferguson and another one in the middle of the road, not far from the house occupied by Mr. Remond, a Frenchman. One window pane was broken by splinters.

The homes of Mr. A. J. Hughes at 415 Great Western Road and Mr. D. G. Mirams, Court 10, 410 Great Western Road were struck by shrapnel. Mr. Hughes is a former member of the Council, and a well known member of the British community, while Mr. Mirams is connected with the Public Works Department.

Mrs. Hughes and children were in the house at the time, but fortunately were not injured.

The Shanghai German newspaper, the "Ostasiatischer Lloyd," will not appear this morning owing to its office being in the western danger zone, wherein the power has been cut off.